

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An easy open can end having improved flow characteristics, said end comprising:

a circular center panel with a rupturable score line therein, the score line defining the periphery of a non-removable tear panel,

a non-detachable tab including a nose portion and a rear portion; and
a connection between the tab and the center panel which acts as a pivot about which the tab can be rotated out of the plane of the center panel, such that in use, the rear portion of the tab is lifted to cause the nose portion of the tab to press down on the tear panel, thereby rupturing the score line and swinging the ~~[[rear]]~~ tear panel out of the plane of the center panel to create an opening, the opening including a major axis and a minor axis, the minor axis located at a diameter of the center panel and the major axis located perpendicular to said diameter, the diameter of the center panel is less than 1.835 inches (46.6 mm) and the opening has an area of less than 0.5 square inches (323 mm²) and an aspect ratio of between ~~[[1.3]]~~ about 1.5 and 1.7.

2. (original) An easy open can end according to claim 1, wherein the opening is elliptical.

3. (previously presented) An easy open can end according to claim 1, wherein the aspect ratio of the opening is about 1.5.

4. (previously presented) An easy open can end according to claim 1, wherein the centre panel lies below the level of the outer circumference of the end and the side wall, between the centre panel and said outer circumference, is inclined at an angle of between 20° and 60° to the plane of the end panel.

5. (previously presented) An easy open can end according to claim 1, wherein the tear panel further comprises a bead which substantially follows the periphery of the score and the nose portion of the tab.
6. (original) An easy open end according to claim 5, wherein the bead on the tear panel is closed.
7. (new) An easy open end according to claim 1, wherein said end exhibits a higher first peak of flow rate per unit opening area compared with the first peak of flow rate per unit opening area of an end having an aspect ratio of 1.47 and an opening area of 0.596 square inches and compared with the first peak of flow rate per unit opening area of an end having an aspect ratio of 1.1 and an opening area of 0.450 square inches.
8. (new) An easy open end according to claim 1, wherein said end exhibits a higher first peak of flow rate per unit opening area compared with the first peak of flow rate per unit opening area than an end having an aspect ratio between 1.3 and 1.7 and an opening area of greater than 0.5 square inches.
9. (new) An easy open end according to claim 8, wherein said end exhibits a higher first peak of flow rate per unit opening area compared with the first peak of flow rate per unit opening area than an end having an aspect ratio between about 1.5 and 1.7 and an opening area of greater than 0.5 square inches.
10. (new) An easy open end according to claim 9, wherein said end exhibits a higher first peak of flow rate per unit opening area compared with the first peak of flow rate per unit opening area than an end having only one of an aspect ratio about 1.5 and an opening area of greater than 0.5 square inches.